

1. (Previously presented) Tone wheel testing apparatus, comprising:

a surface adjusting means for holding in the horizontal position an annular object to which a tone wheel is attached, said surface adjusting means comprising a pair of pressing members between which said annular object is held, and the one of said pressing member having a reference surface with which said tone wheel is contacted in order to align said tone wheel in the rotary axis direction of said annular object;

a rotatable chucking means for seizing said annular object so as to align the center of said annular object with its rotary center when said annular object is held by said surface adjusting means; and

a magnetic testing sensor disposed adjacent to said tone wheel of said annular object so as to face each other.

2. (Currently Amended) The tone wheel testing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,

wherein said surface adjusting means comprises a positioning ring and a reference level board as said pair of presser members, between which said annular object is held in said horizontal position in a manner that said reference level board contacts said tone wheel ~~of said annular object~~ set on said positioning ring from above,

wherein said rotatable chucking means comprises an annular frame and chucking jaws capable of moving in and out in its base body, and

wherein said positioning ring is disposed in said annular frame in a manner that said positioning ring is movable up and down supported by a resilient member so as to allow movement toward said reference level board.

3. (Currently Amended) The tone wheel testing apparatus as set forth in claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a reference encoder detecting a rotation number per a unit time of said tone wheel attached to said annular object, said annular object being rotated

accompanying said chucking means rotating,

a processing means for determining whether said tone wheel of said object is good or bad by comparing the information obtained from said reference encoder with the information obtained from said magnetic testing sensor.

4. (Currently Amended) Test method of a tone wheel attached to an object to be tested, using a tone wheel testing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing a tone wheel testing apparatus which comprises a surface adjusting means for holding in the horizontal position an annular object to which a tone wheel is attached, said surface adjusting means comprising a pair of pressing members between which said annular object is held, the one of said pressing member having a reference surface with which said tone wheel is contacted in order to align said tone wheel in the rotary axis direction of said annular object,

providing a rotatable chucking means for seizing said annular object so as to align the center of said annular object with its rotary center when said annular object is held by said surface adjusting means, and

a magnetic testing sensor disposed adjacent to said tone wheel of said annular object so as to face each other,

holding said annular object horizontally by said surface adjusting means, in a manner that said reference surface contacts with said tone wheel set on said positioning ring so as to align said tone wheel in the rotary axis direction of said annular object,

seizing said annular object by said rotatable chucking means when said annular object is held by said surface adjusting means so as to align the center of said annular object with that of said chucking means, and rotating said rotatable chucking means and measuring the signal detected by operation of said magnetic testing sensor.

5. (Previously presented) The test method of a tone wheel attached to said object, as set forth in claim 4,

wherein said pair of pressing members comprise a positioning ring and a

reference level board, and said rotatable chucking means comprises an annular frame and chucking jaws capable of moving in and out in its base body, said positioning ring being movable up and down supported by a resilient member so as to allow the moving toward said reference level board, and

wherein the step of holding said object is performed by executing the following steps;

setting said annular object on said positioning ring; and

moving said reference level board down until said resilient member is compressed enough to resiliently press said annular object by contacting with said reference level board.

6. (Currently Amended) The test method of a tone wheel attached to an object ~~to be tested~~, as set forth in claim 5,

wherein said annular frame functions as a topper when said reference level board is moved down toward said tone wheel of said annular object.

7. (Previously presented) The tone wheel testing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said annular object is a slinger or seal ring.

8. (Previously presented) The test method of tone wheel attached to said object using said tone wheel testing apparatus as set forth in claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein said annular object is a slinger or seal ring.